

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2090
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6887
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1285

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TAGS MPOL NATO
SUBJECT CONDUCT OF THE 1977 NATO DEFENSE REVIEW

REFS A. USNATO 433 DTG 261541Z JAN 77, NOTAL; B. STATE 034899
DTG 160025Z FEB 77, NOTAL

SUMMARY: MARCH 7 DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) DISCUSSION
ON PROVIDING A SPECIAL CHARACTER FOR THE FALL 1977 NATO
DEFENSE REVIEW HIGHLIGHTED INCREASED NORWEGIAN DEFENSE
SPENDING TRENDS, BUT VERY LITTLE ELSE OF SUBSTANCE ON WHAT
NATIONS PLAN TO DO TO ATTAIN A CLOSER APPROXIMATION BETWEEN
NATIONAL PLANS AND NATO FORCE GOALS. SLUGGISH NATIONAL
PLANNING MECHANISMS AND CONTINUED LACK OF POLITICAL COM-
MITMENT APPEAR TO BE THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES. DESPITE
THIS, DRC DISCUSSION HAD AN UPBEAT TONE. ASYG MUMFORD
PLANS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT DURING SPRING
AND SUMMER SMONTHS. END SUMMARY.

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1. ASYG MUMFORD OPENED MARCH 7 DRC DISCUSSION OF ITEM ON
CONDUCT OF 1977 DEFENSE REVIEW BY RECALLING PREVIOUS DRC
CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT (REF A), AND NOTING THAT MINISTERS
HAD UNDERTAKEN, IN DECEMBER 1976, TO REVIEW THEIR SPECIFIC
FORCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO. HE ASKED DRC REPS TO COMMENT
IN TURN ON HOW THESE NATIONAL REVIEWS WERE PROGRESSING,
WITH A VIEW TO GIVING A "SPECIAL CHARACTER" TO THE 1977
NATO DEFENSE REVIEW.

2. BELGIAN REP (GEN TAYMANS) STATED THAT MILITARY AND

DEFENSE CIRCLES IN HIS COUNTRY WERE WILL AWARE OF THE GROWING NATO/WP GAP, BUT THAT POLITICAL AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC OPINION HAD NOT YET GRASPED ITS IMPLICATIONS. HE FRANKLY DOUBTED THAT ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY PROVISION COULD BE MADE BY BELGIUM IN FULFILLMENT OF NATO FORCE GOALS.

3. CANADIAN REP (COL OLSON) SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO HIS INTERVENTION AT THE LAST DRC MEETING (REF A).

4. DANISH REP (BELLING) SHARED CHAIRMAN'S HOPE FOR A "SPECIAL STATUS" FOR THE 1977 REVIEW, BUT HAD NO SPECIFICS ON HOW DENMARK WOULD TREAT THE SUBJECT. HE SUPPORTED THE 1977 QUESTIONNAIRE'S CALL FOR SPECIFIC NATIONAL STATEMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL FORCE GOALS, AND ASKED IF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF COULD PRODUCE SOME UNCLASSIFIED ATA ON THE NATO-WP BALANCE TO SUPPORT NATIONAL EFFORTS TO MAKE NATO PUUBLICS AWARE OF THE ADVERSE TRENDS.

5. FRG REP (BGEN SCHUENEMANN) NOTED THAT HIS COUNTRY'S NATIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING IS ROOTED IN THE NATO FORCE GOALS PROCESS. HE SAID THAT NEXT YEAR'S DEFENSE BUDGET HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED A FIRST READING IN THE BUNDESTAG WITH ONLY "MINOR WOUNDS," AND THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MOD'S BUDGET DIVISION AND THE FINANCE MINISTRY WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 14. MOD HAD HOPES, HE SAID, TO IMPLMENT AS MANY NATO FORCE GOALS AS POSSIBLE.
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6. ITALIAN REP (VADM PATRELLI) SAID THAT ROME SUPPORTS A SPECIAL CHARACTER FOR THE 1977 REVIEW, BUT UNDERLINED THAT THE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION COULD NOT GO BEYOND THE AGREED FORCE RESTRUCTURINGS AS SET OUT IN THE PROMOTIONAL LAWS. HE SUPPORTED THE 1977 DPQ FORMAT AND SAID THAT ITALY'S RESPONSE WOULD BE COMPLETE (EXCEPT FOR ITEM V) ON TIME.

7. NETHERLANDS REP (WIJNAENDTS) SAID HE HADNOTHING SPECIFIC TO REPORT, BUT THAT THE HAGUE WAS STUDYING NETHERLANDS' FORCE GOALS VERY CAREFULLY.

8. NORWEGIAN REP (HEIDENSTROEM) NOTED THAT IN DECEMBER HIS MINISTER HAD REPORTED A 3.25 PER CENT INCREASE IN REAL TERMS FOR 1977. SINCE THAT TIME, HEIDENSTROEM ADDED, PARLIAMENT HAD APPROPRIATED EXTRA FUNDS FOR THE NAVY, BRINGING THE REAL GROWTH RATE TO FIVE PER CENT, AND THE NEW COAST GUARD, BRINGING THE RATE TO SEVEN PER CENT. NOTING THAT THE 1977 BUDGET WAS STILL UNDER REVIEW TO MEET A STRAINED INVESTMENT SITUATION, HEIDENSTROEM SAID THAT MOD AND THE MINISTRY OF

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FINANCE HAD COOPERATED TO IDENTIFY PRESSING PROBLEMS AND THAT, AS A RESULT, EXTRA APPROPRIATIONS WOULD BE ADDED TO INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING, IN REAL TERMS, TO EIGHT REPEAT EIGHT PER CENT OVER THE CURRENT YEAR.

9. TURKISH REP (TOPUR), SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS DOING ITS BEST TO IMPROVE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, AND HOPED THAT SPEEDY PASSAGE BY THE US CONGRESS OF THE DCA WOULD PERMIT TURKEY TO BROADEN THE BASE OF ITS DEFENSE PLANNING.

01. UK REP (PETERS) SAID THAT LONDON WOULD THOROUGHLY REVIEW ALL UK FORCE GOALS. NOTING THAT THE RECENT DEFENSE WHITE PAPER CONTAINED GOOD INFORMATION ON THE FORCE BALANCE, PETERS SUPPORTED DANISH REP'S CALL FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED NATO PUBLICATION DESCRIBING THE BALANCE.

11. US REP (BADER) SAID THAT WASHINGTON WAS AWARE OF DEFICIENCIES IN NATIONS' MEETING NATO FORCE GOALS. HE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTED THAT THE FY-78 DEFENSE BUDGET REQUEST, INCLUDING RECENT AMENDMENTS, CONTAINED A NET INCREASE IN THE US CONTRIBUTION TO NATO, AN WOULD, IF PASSED BY CONGRESS, INCREASE OVERALL DEFENSE SPENDING MORE THAN THE US HAD DECLARED TO NATO IN THE COURSE OF THE 1976 DEFENSE REVIEW. DRAWING ON REF B, US REP STRESSED US INTENTION TO DISCUSS FULLY ANY DEPARTURES, IN RESPONSE TO DPQ(77), FROM AGREED NATO FORCE GOALS, AND NOTED UNIQUE US SYSTEM OF REVIEWING DPQ RESPONSE AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS. HE SUPPORTED DANISH AND US REPS' PROPOSAL FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED BALANCE PAPER, AND RECALLED THE RECENT SUGGESTION OF AUS SPEAKER (MGEN BOWMAN) AT THE NATO SYMPOSIUM FOR A NATO WHITE PAPER.

12. CHAIRMAN RESPONDED THAT IT HAD BEEN CLEAR FROM THE DECEMBER, 1976 MEETING THAT MINISTERS HAD TAKEN TO HEART THE GROWING NATO-WP IMBALANCE AND THAT MINISTERS HAD RESOLVED TO TAKE STEPS TO CORRECT IT, EITHER THROUGH CUSTOMARY REVIEW PROCESSES OR THROUGH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO 1976 DEFICIENCIES. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE ON THE TASK OF PREPARING AN UNCLASSIFIED NATO BALANCE PAPER, AND THAT DRC WOULD RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT AT A LATER DATE. FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NATO DEFENSE REVIEW IN 1977 WOULD PROVE TO BE A "VINTAGE YEAR."

13. COMMENT: GOOD NEWS FROM NORWAY AND US; OTHERWISE OLD WINE IN OLD BOTTLES. AS WASHINGTON CONSIDERS ITS INITIATIVES TOWARD NATO IN THE COURSE OF THE SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER ALSO AN ORCHESTRATED APPROACH, IN NATO AND IN CAPITALS, WITH THE OBJECT OF EXTRACTING A PRODUCTIVE EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO MINISTERS' DECEMBER 1976 STATEMENT OF THE NEED FOR A CLOSER APPROXIMATION BETWEEN NATIONAL PLANS AND NAT FORCE GOALS. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE CONTINUING DRC EXCHANGES, AS WELL AS THE FALL MULITILATERAL REVIEWS, WILL PROVIDE USEFUL WORKING-LEVEL VEHICLES TO GET THE US MESSAGE ACROSS. END COMMENT.
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